

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Proposed Annual Budget Engagement Report



South Gippsland
Shire Council

Background

South Gippsland Shire Council welcomed feedback on the Proposed 2024/25 Annual Budget from 18 April to 5 May 2024. Feedback was submitted via email and Council's Your Say Engagement platform and promoted via:

- Council's website
- Council's Facebook page
- Local newspapers
- In The Know online newsletter
- Mayor's Message
- Word of mouth

A live Facebook Q&A session was also held on Wednesday 1 May to obtain community feedback.

Overview



Eleven written requests



Nine online surveys



2,114 reach - Facebook Q&A



223 visits to the Your Say platform
(including 88 downloads of the proposed budget).

Written Requests

Eleven budget proposals were received by Council with the majority submitted via the Your Say platform.

The written budget proposals were:

1. A proposal expressing concerns in relation to the footpath extension program. The concerns related to budgeting for the program, footpath criteria, future connectivity and future budget provision.
2. A proposal seeking the allocation of funding to support footpath extensions in Poowong citing safety concerns, particularly for those with a disability or with young families.
3. A proposal seeking a funded whole of community consultation for Sandy Point to determine current and future infrastructure needs, and a funded masterplan, informed by the consultation.
4. A proposal seeking capital expenditure for road upgrades (including curb and channeling) for the section of Bridge Street Korumburra, extending from the police station to the children's crossing opposite St Joseph's Catholic School. The proposal cites high traffic volumes and safety concerns.
5. A proposal asking Council to reject cost shifting for federally funded organisations, to provide funding for footpath extensions in Poowong and to advocate to DEECA for weed management enforcement. Concerns were expressed regarding inequitable spending across townships and the Community Leadership Program, which was considered unnecessary.



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Written Requests Continued

6. A proposal seeking the commission of an updated Masterplan for the Korumburra Recreation Reserve and improvements to pitch drainage and irrigation for the Korumburra City Soccer Club.
7. A proposal supporting the above request.
8. A proposal seeking the development of a grant application for lighting upgrades for the Leongatha Recreation Reserve.
9. A proposal seeking funding support for footpaths in Poowong and information on the criteria for identifying footpath extension priority. It also rejected the allocation of funding support for the Community Leadership Program and Landcare MoU. The proposal also sought clarification on the cost of Coal Creek and the Korumburra Streetscape project.
10. A proposal asking Council to provide \$5k in funding support to Gippslandia magazine.
11. A proposal seeking Council support for footpath extensions in Poowong.

Online Survey

An online survey on Your Say provided an option for people to provide quick feedback on the Proposed Budget. Nine surveys were received in total, however not all questions were answered by all nine respondents.

The survey feedback related to:

- Need for additional mental health support
- Support for the building maintenance initiative
- Request to redirect \$50k in Coal Creek funding toward road rehabilitation
- Support for Community Leadership Program
- Support from MoU with Landcare
- Rejection of the amount allocated to roadside drainage maintenance
- Questions about borrowing (where borrowed from/for?)
- Some towns perceived to be under represented (Nyora, Venus Bay)
- Public toilets at Port Welshpool
- Questions on cash reserves, employee costs
- Objection to surplus being held and not spent.

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Facebook Questions & Answer (Q&A)

The Facebook Q&A provided South Gippsland residents with an opportunity to chat to Councillors in real time and to ask questions about the Proposed Budget.

The Facebook Q&A was promoted via local newspaper, Facebook, Council's website and In the Know.

Eleven community members participated in the Q&A.

Key themes from the Budget Q&A were:

- Waste charges
- Footpath renewal funding and criteria
- Building maintenance
- Community Leadership Program
- Youth Council
- Playground for Port Franklin

